Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-05 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 /066 W

R 121654Z SEP 77 FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1769 INFO ALL EC CAPITALS AMEMBASSY PARIS USMISSION GENEVA

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PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD GENEVA ALSO FOR USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC, BE

SUBJECT: INTERNAL EC DISCUSSION OF SUGAR AGREEMENT MANDATE

REF: BRUSSELS 11403

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBASSY OFFICER SEPTEMBER 12,
BELGIAN WORKING GROUP REPRESENTATIVE GERARD SURQUIN SAID
THAT FRENCH WERE COMPLETELY NEGATIVE TO THE EC COMMISSION'S
PROPOSED NEW ISA MANDATE (REFTEL) WHEN IT WAS DISCUSSED
BY THE SPECIAL COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 9. THE ISSUE WILL NOW BE TAKEN UP BY COREPER
SEPTEMBER 14 AND BY WORKING COMMITTEE THE NEXT DAY, BUT
SURQUIN NOW HAS LITTLE HOPE THAT THE PROPOSED MANDATE CAN
BE APPROVED. HE SAID THAT IN FRIDAY'S DISCUSSIONS,
BELGIUM WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF WITHHOLDING SOME SUGAR (IN UNSPECIFIED AMOUNTS) OFF EXPORT
MARKETS AS AN INTERNAL EC COMPROMISE POSITION, BUT
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"THE FRENCH JUST DO NOT WANT A SUGAR AGREEMENT".

2. SURQUIN ALSO SPECULATED THAT ONE WAY AROUND THE CURRENT IMPASSE MIGHT BE A CLAUSE IN THE FINAL ISA (ASSUMING IT CAN BE NEGOTIATED WITHOUT THE EC) PROVIDING FOR EVENTUAL COMMUNITY ACCESSION (I.E. "AFTER THE FRENCH ELECTION"). SURQUIN ACKNOWLEDGED HOWEVER, THAT SUCH A

CLAUSE COULD BE AWKWARD AND PERHAPS IMPOSSIBLE IN PRACTICE TO NEGOTIATE. CHAMBERS

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Message Attributes

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